

TOKYO ASAHI - 17 Nov. 1941

War Minister TOJO and Navy Minister SHIMADA reported the progress of Army and Navy operations since April at the plenary sessions on the 16th of the House of Peers and House of Representatives.

Speech of the Navy Minister

Position of Complete Blockade
40. Continuous Air-raids on Chungking.

Our Imperial Naval forces operating in China are, in close co-operation with the Army forces, making efforts to achieve the object of Holy War by fighting heroically and overcoming many difficulties over vast areas.

Operations in the YANGTZE River Area.

Operations in the area, from the mouth of the Yangtze-River to the upper reaches, approximately 800 miles, and its connecting water routes, aims chiefly at the security of safety on the YANGTZE River. Not only are they endeavoring to sweep mines and other obstacles in the important waters, but also in the destruction of active enemy forces in the area by carrying out frequent positive operation with the aid of vessels, naval landing parties, and air forces. One of the important was that in mid-September when the HUNAN operation was carried out in cooperation with the Army forces in which they were engaged in aerial operations, opening water-routes, guiding Army forces, and the occupation of Yingtien and other strategic points by naval landing parties, all of which had great results. The operations of the forces on the YANGTZE River was extremely quiet, and furthermore, operations which were difficult and dangerous were many, such as the disposal of mines. However, the mission was very important in the maintenance of war supply lines of operation forces, and the securing of traffic safety on the YANGTZE River, and did not permit the slightest negligence. The officers and men of the forces on the YANGTZE River are incessantly carrying on this task by overcoming various difficulties.

Coast Blockade Operation

The coast blockade operation is to cut off the enemy's marine traffic along the 2800 miles of the entire China Coast line and also to engage in various operations along the coast connected therewith, and the units are continuously exerting themselves to strengthen the blockade by keeping a vigilant lookout over the sea and by attacking positively the enemy bases for imports and exports of goods and other important points.

To be more particular, early in March surprise attacks upon several strategic points on the coast of the Kwantung Province were made in co-operation with the Army, and in April an occupation campaign on Fuchow was enforced and surprise landings at Changhai, Ningbo and several other strategic points on the coast of Chekiang Province was carried out. All of these operations completely destroyed the enemy bases and obtained great results.

During this year, landing operations of this type were made at no less than twenty-six large and small places, and thus it is endeavored to complete the coast blockade. The blockading forces are performing their duties with dogged perseverance in the face of intense heat and bitter cold and battling with the winds and waves.

The Operation of the Air Forces.

Operations are continuously being carried on by our air forces, nearly all over China, the chief ones of which are attacks on the Burma Road and other south-western transportation roads and strategic points; the centers in the interior of the Chungking area; and on such strategic points in the northwestern China as Lanchow and Hsian, etc; all of which are repeatedly being carried on with great difficulty. In the Chungking area, in particular, frequent attacks have been made since May. And among these, such as those in the middle of August, where with a large force, during a week severe bombing was carried on day and night forty times in succession and completely blew up the enemy's military establishments and other nuclear organs and threw the enemy into a wretched plight. Now that the small remaining enemy air force has almost fled into the interior with no fight left, our forces have entirely regained the command of the air.

Other Operations.

Besides these operations mentioned above, in Hainan Island frequent large-scale mopping-up operations were carried out with the complete destruction of the headquarters of the enemy bandits who had been active in the northeastern district, and great favorable results have been attained, indicating remarkable improvements of public peace on the island. The above-mentioned summarizes the operations of our Imperial Navy in China. Moreover, in connection with these operations, our Imperial Navy units, as you already know, advanced into South French Indo-China in the latter part of July, and these units are making strenuous efforts to exalt our military prestige in a land of extreme heat and epidemics.

Now the Chiang Kai-shek army has almost lost their fighting spirit because of our operations as mentioned above and of their domestic impoverishment and exhaustion and is lingering out a feeble existence. (Then he / the Navy Minister / declared his determination as in another article.)

Let me take this opportunity to thank you, on behalf of all the Navy officers and men, for your enthusiastic support to the whole Navy.

Navy Minister SHIMADA declares his determination:

"The international situation has now at last become acute; the Empire is on the eve of coming face to face with an unprecedentedly serious crisis. I feel keenly that the responsibility of the Imperial Navy is truly heavy. Officers and men, as one, in real earnest, are resolutely determined to exert themselves to the utmost to set at rest the mind of the Supreme Commander, the Emperor, who is above them and at the same time to live up to the expectations of the whole body of their fellow countrymen."

War Minister TOJO's declaration:

"From Manchuria in the North to French Indo-China in the South, the Imperial Forces stationed throughout the vast area of East Asia are endeavoring both to bring the Chiang Kai-shek faction to submission and to establish the East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere. Standing immovable as a rock with discipline growing ever stricter, exhibiting their valour and prestige to those at home and to foreigners, their preparations are completed to be able to cope immediately with whatever international crisis they may meet." (Applause) . . . (portion omitted) . . . "The gravity of the present situation is indeed, I am convinced, beyond words. The whole army, in view of this, bringing to perfection its material and spiritual fighting strength, is resolved to bring repose to the Imperial Mind above and at the same time respond to the enthusiasm of the people behind the guns."

C E R T I F I C A T EStatement of Source and Authenticity

I, SAKAMOTO Izumi hereby certify that I am officially connected with the ASAHI SHIMBUN in the following capacity: Chief of The Investigation Section and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 1 pages, and described as follows: EXCERPTS FROM THE ASAHI SHIMBUN, dated Nov. 17, 1941. I further certify that the attached photostatic document is copied from the original publication which is in the archives and files of the ASAHI SHIMBUN, TOKYO.

Signed at Tokyo on this

17th day of November, 1947

/s/ I. Sakamoto
Signature of Official
SEAL

Witness: /s/ T. Watanabe

Chief of the
Investigation Section
Official Capacity

Statement of Official Procurement

I, HENRY SHIMOJIMA, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above certification was obtained by me from the above signed official of the ASAHI SHIMBUN in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this

17th day of November, 1947

/s/ Henry Shimojima
NAME

Witness: J. F. Munroe /s/

INVESTIGATOR, IPS
Official Capacity

Doc 3291-B

危局即應準備全シ

陸海兩相全軍ノ決意通函

東條、島田陸海兩相へ十六日ノ貴、衆兩院ノ本會議
四月以後ノ陸海兩軍ノ作戰ノ進退ニツイテ報告ヲナ
シ、ツイテ兩院トモ院議ヲ以ツテ皇軍將兵ニ對ス
ル感謝ト戦歿將兵ニ對スル敬弔ヲ行ツタ、東條
陸相ハコノ戦況報告ノ中テ從來ノ型カラ脱シテ特
ニ現在ノ國際情勢ニ言及シ「今ヤ時局ノ重大佳ハマ
サニ言語ニ絶シテイルト由ジタ後「イカナル困難
事態ニ處スルモコレニ堅固シテ準備ハ完了シタ
トノ力道イ決意ヲ明カニシタ。島田海相ハ戦況報告
ノ中テハ特ニ現下ノ時局ニ言及シナカツタモノ、兩
院ノ感謝決議ニ應ヘタ發言ノナカテ陸相同様、現下
ノ微妙ナル情勢ニ言及シ「今ヤ國際情勢ハイヨイヨ
急迫シ帝國ハ正ニ未曾有ノ重大時局ニ直面シ帝國
軍ノ實情真ニ重大ナルヲ痛感シテイルト述べ、同
軍部大臣受々現下ノ微妙ナ國際情勢ヲ暗示シ全國
軍ノ決意ヲ通函シタ。兩院ヘコノ兩相ノ發言ニ對シ
テ驚嘆破ル、バカリノ拍手ヲモツテ應ヘ、兩相ハ飲
會後靖國神社ニ参拜シテ饗國ノ英靈ニ兩院ノ決議ヲ

報告スルナド、臨時議會ハ本格的議事ニナホヘイ
ラナイ議會勢頭ニシテ早クモ現下ノ情勢ヲ反映シ
タ真剣ナ、マタ急迫シタ勢ハ氣ガミナギツタコト
ハ特ニ印象的デアツタ。
兩相ノ發言ハ次ノ如リデアル。

東條首相 北ハ滿洲、南ハ佛印、東亞ノ廣大ナル
地域ニ配置セラレタ皇軍ハ斯介石佛如クノタメ
努力スルト来ニ東亞共榮國確立ノ爲磐石不動ノ
態勢ヲトツテ皇紀イヨイヨ以正武ヲ中外ニ示
シ、イカナル國際障礙ニ處スルモ信ニコシニ自
應シ得ル進歩ヲ完了シテイル（相手）．．．．
中略．．．今ヤ時局ノ重大性ハマサニ言語ニ述
シテイルト信ズル、全皇軍ハコ、ニ全々有形無
形ノ戦力ヲ充實シ上進意ヲ發シテ舉ルト共ニ下
國後ノ無敵ニ進ヘンコトヲ期シテキル。

廣田首相 今ヤ國際情勢ハイヨイヨ急迫シ帝國ハ
正ニ未曾有ノ重大時局ニ直ニシ帝國存亡ノ實情
真ニ重大ナルヲ痛感シテキル、斯兵一同イヨイ
ヨ浮城ノ戰ヲイタシ上六元帥陛下ノ宸襟ヲ安ン
ジ舉ルト共ニ下全國民ノ期待ニ沿フコトヲ固ク
決意シテキル。

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「ワシントン」文書局 第
國際偵察部 第三二九一號ノB

真摯及ビ公正ニシスル證明

余、阪本イツミヘ余ガ下記ノ資格ニ於テ、即チ調
査部長トシテ、朝日新聞ト公的ニ係ニ在ルモノナ
ルコト、茲ニ該職員トシテ余ガ茲ニ添附セラレタ
ル、一頁ヨリ成ル、千九百四十一年ノ昭和十六年
ノ十一月十七日附、下記姓名、即チ朝日新聞ヨリ
ノ授章ノ文書ノ保管ニ任シ居ルコトヲ茲ニ證明ス。
余ハ更ニ添附ノ複製爲眞文書ガ原發行紙ヨリノ複製
寫ナルコト、右ガ東京朝日新聞ノ公式書類及ビ該
ノ一部ナルコトヲ證明ス。

千九百四十七年ノ昭和二十二年ノ十一月十七日

東京ニ於テ署名

當該職員署名

右ノ者ノ公的資格

證

人

阪

本

調

査

長

越

イツミ

T.

證

公式入手ニ關スル證明

余、下島ヘンリヘ、余ガ聯合山最高指揮官總司
 令部ニ關係アルモノナルコト、茲ニ上記姓名ノ
 文書ヘ余ガ公証上、朝日新聞ノ上記姓名職員ヨ
 リ入手シタルモノナルコトヲ茲ニ證明ス。

千九百四十七年／昭和二十二年／十一月十七日

東京ニ於テ署名

氏 名 堀 下 島 ヘ ン リ

石ノ若ノ公由資者 I・P・S 調査官

證 人 ジエー・エフ・マンロウ

Doc 3291-B

ASAHI SHIMBUN - 17 Nov. 1941

Preparations Complete to Meet the Critical Situation

Both War and Navy Ministers lay Stress on the
Determination of the Whole Army and Navy.

At the plenary session of both the House of Peers and the House of Representatives on the 15th, both War and Navy Ministers TÔJÔ and SHIMADA reported on the progress of military and naval operations since April. Then, both Houses decided by a parliamentary decision to express gratitude to the officers and men of the Imperial Army and Navy and respect and condolence to the war dead. In his report on the war situation, War Minister TÔJÔ, breaking the customary form heretofore accepted, specially referred to the present international situation, and declared that "the gravity of the situation is now indeed beyond description." He then continued to express his determination that "whatever turning point in the international situation may confront us, preparations to meet it are fully complete." Though Navy Minister SHIMADA did not refer to the present situation in his report on the war situation, he, as the War Minister did, mentioned the present delicate situation in his speech responding to the Houses' vote of gratitude as follows: "The international situation is becoming more and more tense now, and Japan is facing an unprecedented grave situation. I keenly feel the exceedingly great responsibility of the Imperial Navy." As above, both Ministers of military affairs hinted, one after another, at the present delicate international situation and emphasized the determination of the whole Army and Navy. Both Houses responded to their speeches with a storm of hand-clapping from all the members. After the adjournment, both Ministers paid homage at the Yasukuni Shrine and reported the decision of both Houses to the guardian spirits of the country. And it was especially impressive that the Extraordinary Diet was filled with a serious and tense atmosphere, already reflecting the present situation at the outset of the session even before the opening of the regular proceedings.

The speeches of the two Ministers are as follows:

War Minister TÔJÔ: "The Imperial Army, stationed in the vast area of East Asia, from Manchuria in the north to French Indo-China in the south, is making efforts to subjugate the Chiang Kai-shek party, and at the same time is standing firm as a rock to establish the East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. The discipline of the Army is all the more strict, and the influence of the Army is manifested both at home and abroad. And whatever turning point in the international situation may confront us, we are fully prepared to meet it.

(Applause) - - - - -

I believe that now the gravity of the situation is truly beyond description. The whole Army is, at this time, anticipating the increasing

replenishment of material and spiritual fighting power and hopes to set the Emperor's mind at peace on one hand, while on the other, to respond to the enthusiasm of the home front.'

Navy Minister SHIMADA: 'The international situation is now becoming more and more tense and Japan is indeed facing an unprecedented grave situation. I keenly feel the exceedingly great responsibility of the Imperial Navy. All officers and men are firmly determined to set His Majesty's heart at ease on the one hand and, on the other, to meet the whole nation's expectations by exerting themselves diligently.'

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/s/ I. Sakamoto

Signature of Official

SEAL

Witness: /s/ T. Watanabe

CHIEF OF THE

INVESTIGATION SECTION

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/s/ Henry Shimojima

NAME

Witness: /s/ J.F. Munroe

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